

REMARKS

Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection set forth in the above-mentioned Official Action in view of the foregoing amendments and the following remarks are respectfully requested.

Claims 1-7 are now pending in the application. Non-elected Claims 8-21 have been cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer of the subject matter recited therein. Claims 1 and 3 are independent and have been amended herein along with dependent Claim 4.

Claims 1-7 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,522,416 (Matsumoto et al.) in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,812,156 (Bullock et al.). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

As recited in independent Claim 1, the present invention relates to a method of controlling a printing apparatus which performs printing by using a printhead having a printing element and a storage unit. The printing apparatus includes a first control unit which controls operation of the printing apparatus, and a second control unit which can operate independently of the first control unit. The method includes an instruction generation step of causing the first control unit to generate an instruction for acquiring specific information from information held by the storage unit of the printhead, the instruction not including an address of the storage unit to be accessed, and an acquisition step of causing the second control unit to receive the instruction generated by the first control unit in the instruction generation step, generate an address for accessing the storage

unit of the printhead based on the instruction, access the storage unit at the address, and acquire the specific information corresponding to the instruction. The method further includes a control step of causing the second control unit to drive and control the printhead on the basis of information which is generated on the basis of the specific information acquired in the acquisition step in order to drive the printhead.

As recited in independent Claim 3, the present invention relates to a printing apparatus which performs printing by using a printhead having a printing element and a storage unit. The apparatus includes instruction generation means, acquisition means and control means. The instruction generation means generates an instruction for acquiring specific information from information held by the printhead, the instruction not including an address of the storage unit to be accessed. The acquisition means receives the instruction generated by the instruction generation means, generates an address based on the instruction, accesses the storage unit of the printhead based on the address, and acquires the specific information corresponding to the instruction from the storage unit. The control means drives and controls the printhead on the basis of information which is generated on the basis of the specific information acquired by said acquisition means in order to drive the printhead.

Matsumoto et al. relates to a printing apparatus and method capable of high-speed data reception suitable for each host apparatus. The apparatus includes a CPU 21 for controlling each component of the printer and a printhead control circuit 29 used to control the printheads in accordance with the print data stored in data memory 23. As recognized

by the Examiner, Matsumoto et al. does not generate an instruction for acquiring specific information from information held by (a storage unit of) a printhead, and receiving the generated instruction, generating an address, accessing the storage unit at or based on the address, and acquiring specific information corresponding to the instruction, as is recited in independent Claims 1 and 3. Matsumoto et al. also does not disclose that the instruction does not include an address of the storage unit to be accessed, as is also recited in the independent claims.

Bullock et al. relates to a printing system in which a printhead 12 includes an integral memory 16 and a cartridge 20 includes an integral cartridge memory 28. However, even if Matsumoto et al. were combined with Bullock et al., Applicants respectfully submit that in such a combined arrangement at most the CPU would read data stored in the respective memories arranged in the ink cartridge and the printhead. Such a combination would fail to suggest at least causing a first control unit to generate an instruction for acquiring specific information from information held by the storage unit of the printhead, and causing the second control unit to receive the instruction generated by the first control unit, generate an address for accessing the storage unit of the printhead based on the instruction, access the storage unit at the address, and acquire the specific information corresponding to the instruction, as is recited in independent Claim 1. Nor would such a combination suggest instruction generation means for generating an instruction for acquiring specific information from the information held by the printhead, and acquisition means for receiving the generated instruction, generating an address based

on the instruction, accessing the storage unit of the printhead based on the address, and acquiring specific information corresponding to the instruction from the storage unit, as is recited in independent Claim 3.

Accordingly, independent Claims 1 and 3 are patentable over the citations of record. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the § 103 rejection are respectfully requested.

For the foregoing reasons, Applicant respectfully submits that the present invention is patentably defined by independent Claims 1 and 3. Dependent Claims 2 and 4-7 are also allowable, in their own right, for defining features of the present invention in addition to those recited in their respective independent claims. Individual consideration of the dependent claims is requested.

Applicant submits that the present application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration, withdrawal of the rejection set forth in the above-noted Office Action, and an early Notice of Allowability are requested.

Applicant's undersigned attorney may be reached in our Washington, D.C. office by telephone at (202) 530-1010. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our below-listed address.

Respectfully submitted,



Mark A. Williamson  
Mark A. Williamson  
Attorney for Applicant  
Registration No. 33,628

FITZPATRICK, CELLA, HARPER & SCINTO  
30 Rockefeller Plaza  
New York, New York 10112-3801  
Facsimile: (212) 218-2200

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